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international review of the red cross



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PUBLIC RELATIONS : POLICY AND PRACTICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

by A. Modoux

For a long time it was considered at the ICRC, as in most other international organizations, that the function of an information service was to put out information on the institution's current activities and its general aims. No attention was paid to the true needs of those sections of the public who were at the receiving end, the only concern being the ICRC's short-term interests. This one-way process meant that the people to whom this flow of information was fed received it passively but there were no means of discovering what were their reactions, in other words, there was no feed-back.

For some years, however, the ICRC has been aware of the necessity to substitute for this "linear process" a circular one, where exchanges could take place. The cause of this development lies in the need for the ICRC, as for the other institutions, to adapt itself to its environment, which has continued to grow geographically and to change politically, economically and socially. Today, more than ever before, interchanges of views are a condition for a better understanding and wider acceptance of the ICRC by the international community and by the Red Cross family. The ICRC now belongs to a world which is interdependent and in which it must find its own place, a world where isolated zones are gradually disappearing and where compartmented areas are making way for a system of general communication.

The ICRC's credibility, a condition for its existence

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is the only institution of its kind, and is paradoxical in more ways than one. Founded

in 1863 on the initiative of Henry Dunant and four other Swiss citizens of Geneva, the ICRC is a private association governed by the Swiss Civil Code and, in time of war or of internal disturbances or tension, works for the amelioration of the condition of civilian and military victims. While preserving its private character and remaining independent of governments, the ICRC acts on the basis of the international mandate clearly defined in the four Geneva Conventions of 1949—a treaty to which some 140 sovereign States are parties—and in the Statutes of the International Red Cross.

Although the ICRC is uninational, its membership being restricted to Swiss nationals, its scope of action is world-wide. While it is called upon to act in highly political situations, the ICRC holds to its neutrality and impartiality, failing which it would not be accepted by belligerents as a neutral intermediary. Its activities are almost always conducted discreetly even though the situations necessitating its intervention are in general the subject of world press headlines.

Although it has no resources or assets of its own, the ICRC's financial commitments run into tens of millions of Swiss francs every year, the money being voluntarily contributed by the States signatories to the Geneva Conventions and by National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies.

The ICRC, which has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize three times (in 1917, 1944 and 1963), has provided assistance and protection to millions of war victims throughout the world in the course of over a hundred years of activity. The utility of its work, at conferences as much as on the battlefield, is universally recognized. It is not invested with power of any kind, whether political, military, economic or financial, and its strongest asset is the confidence placed in it by the States and National Red Cross Societies, by international public opinion and by the victims themselves. Utility and confidence are the two pillars on which the institution's credibility rests.

The notion of credibility is a very subjective one; it varies in time and from place to place and is not something that, once acquired, remains constant and unalterable. The ICRC's utility is not uniformly appreciated in different parts of the world, and adverse circumstances may at any time erode its moral credit. In short, the ICRC's credibility is every day at risk. It depends on what has or has not been done by the ICRC for the victims, on the manner in which it has administered the funds entrusted to it, on the independence it demonstrates in the face of pressure group action, and on the way it applies the principles of neutrality and impartiality. Moreover, the ICRC's credibility is not only the concern of

its President or of its members.¹ It is affected by the attitude of ICRC senior officials in Geneva or of delegates in the field, and by the way its public relations policy is conducted. It is to this latter aspect that the following pages of this study will be devoted.

The public relations problem

The public relations of an institution working on a world scale, in a highly political context, and whose efficiency is to tightly linked to its credibility, are highly complex. The problems are related to the nature of the tasks incumbent on the ICRC in its role as a neutral intermediary between belligerents and also to the variety and the large number of target groups.

In order that the ICRC should be acknowledged as a neutral and impartial intermediary—an indispensable condition for it to be able to go to the aid of conflict victims—it must avoid all controversies of a political nature, even though today governments are increasingly inclined to couple humanitarian activities with political questions. This is a regrettable trend, because it has a direct influence on the efficiency of ICRC action. Furthermore, it might constitute a threat to the ICRC's credibility if its name or its operations are exploited dishonestly with the purpose of misleading or manipulating world opinion. The “politization” of humanitarian problems consequently compels the ICRC to proceed with the utmost care where information is concerned and, accordingly, to adopt a policy of discretion, a concept which is basic to “humanitarian diplomacy”.

The rule of discretion is applied essentially to the findings made by the ICRC in the course of its “protection” activities, this being the expression given to action in aid of civilian and military persons (prisoners of war, civilian internees, political detainees, civilian populations in occupied territories, and so on) in the power of their adversaries. The ICRC says and shows what it does, but remains very circumspect as to what it sees and hears through its delegates. To gain and to retain the confidence of the authorities permitting its delegates access to victims in camps, prisons and occupied territories, the ICRC must observe continuously and uniformly the rule of discretion, and must resist all the pressures—which can be very strong at times—to get it to speak out and take sides.

¹ The International Committee of the Red Cross comprises two bodies: (a) the Assembly, which is the supreme policy-making body of the ICRC and is composed of 15 to 25 members, lays down principles and general policy and supervises all ICRC activities; (b) the Executive Board, which is responsible for the general conduct of affairs, exercises direct supervision over the administration of the ICRC, and comprises not more than seven members chosen from among the members of the ICRC.

There have been numerous cases where the ICRC could have gained some publicity for itself by adding its voice to the chorus of protests and accusations aimed at rousing international opinion.

This self-imposed rule of discretion is unquestionably a handicap where public relations are concerned. Some people have interpreted this policy as a way of cultivating a special taste for secrecy. This reluctance to give information causes others to view the ICRC with suspicion. It would be foolish to underestimate the significance of this sort of response, which is quite understandable in a world which considers that the right to obtain information must always prevail. Furthermore, it is obvious that to obtain the understanding and approval of all sections of the public, to get their moral, financial and material support, the ICRC must provide them periodically with substantial information. This requirement is acknowledged within the ICRC and considerable efforts are being made to improve the general information process. The main difficulty is finding the proper balance between these contradictory requirements: the discretion rule and the need to inform. This dichotomy has not always been understood outside the Red Cross, especially among the public at large. On the other hand, the ICRC's customary interlocutors such as the governments and the National Red Cross Societies, generally display greater understanding, though they might not necessarily acknowledge that, for the ICRC, the welfare of the victims is its paramount consideration.

Another major problem with which the ICRC has to contend is the variety and large number of people it seeks to reach. Universality being one of the characteristics of the mission of the Red Cross, the target groups are spread far and wide across the earth. We have classified them into four categories, not counting the ICRC's own staff (in Geneva and in the field):

- (a) the international community as a whole, more particularly the governments of the States signatories to the Geneva Conventions, the international and regional organizations (governmental and non-governmental) and the non-State political entities—like the liberation or independence movements—active on the world scene;
- (b) the Red Cross world, i.e. the recognized National Societies, their world federation—the League of Red Cross Societies—and a certain number of emerging Societies which have not yet obtained recognition;
- (c) the international mass media and, through them, international opinion or rather, more realistically, the different national public opinions;

- (d) the Swiss population and authorities, who constitute a special case, in view of the historical ties linking Switzerland to the ICRC, given material expression in the form of a substantial financial grant (more than fifty per cent of the ICRC's ordinary budget).

The efforts made in the way of information and public relations action directed to these various target groups come up against obstacles which are not easy to surmount: economic, social and cultural differences, language barriers, illiteracy, different notions regarding the free flow of information, the unequal development of mass means of communication in different parts of the world and, last but not least, the inadequate resources available, so woefully small in comparison to the size of the work to be performed and the diversity and number of groups to be reached by the ICRC. But the truth is that the scarcity of money and men is not restricted to the ICRC's Press and Information Division; it is a problem which runs right through all its services. This is only to be expected, since the budget of the ICRC for 1978 amounts to less than 28 million Swiss francs, of which 1.8 million francs, or 6.5 per cent of the total, has been allocated to information and public relations work, an insignificant sum for an organization whose information activities have to cover the whole world. It is fortunate that the yardstick for the credibility of an institution such as the ICRC is not the strength of its financial resources. Otherwise, it would have been ruined long ago.

Finally, whilst still on the subject of the vast and diverse target groups, one should mention the problem of vulgarization. As an organization made up largely of university graduates who every day handle complex matters in the spheres of diplomacy, international law and political science, the ICRC naturally tends to address its various audiences in a somewhat esoteric language. If this style of expression is suited to official circles accustomed to "reading between the lines", it does not meet the needs of the public at large. Very often the ICRC, which is primarily active in Third World countries that have recently gained independence, comes up against a wall of misunderstanding or even distrust, which prevents it from functioning with the desired efficacy. It must therefore simplify to the level of the public at large, so that the principles of the Red Cross, the fundamental rules of humanitarian law and the nature of its work are known, understood and accepted. Times have changed since the days of Henry Dunant, when it was enough to convince a few princes and heads of State in order to get an idea accepted and immediately put into effect on the battlefield. The new kinds of conflict and the so-called "modern" forms of combat, which, unfortunately, as in the case of

Lebanon and southern Africa, scarcely make any distinction between combatants and non-combatants, today require that information be disseminated not only among leaders and heads, but also among combatants and the people.

The role of “relay services”

One way of overcoming, at least in part, the different obstacles is by using the “relay services” of the international media, the information and public relations services of the National Red Cross Societies, and the ICRC delegations in the field. These relay services, whose work is often complementary, permit the dissemination of information in areas far from Geneva, and allow for its increase and adaptation to local realities.

The international media are fairly well represented in Geneva; over a hundred journalists are officially accredited to the European Office of the United Nations. The ICRC is in very close contact with most of them, and particularly with the representatives of the large press agencies. It is, however, to be regretted that the information media of the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America are inadequately represented in Geneva and, moreover, on the various scenes of ICRC operations, for it is precisely in these developing countries that the organization would like to be better known and understood.

The information and public relations services of the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies form a relay service which is invaluable to the information programme of the two international organizations of the Red Cross, the ICRC and the League. Unfortunately, not all of the National Societies, especially those of the Third World, have such a service yet; their possibilities of action are also very restricted by lack of resources and of permanent staff. Apart from that, it is obvious that in the countries where the National Society has a service that works normally, the dissemination of information by the ICRC and the League is made very much easier. Through their knowledge of their own national environment, these services are able to adapt the message that is devised and formulated in Geneva to local realities, such as language, culture, social and political system, level of economic and technological development, and so forth. The National Red Cross Societies are all the more ready to act as a relay service as this enables them to show national public opinion the international dimensions of the movement to which they belong. For many Red Cross Societies, this interdependence of image is the cornerstone of their public relations policy. This is why, through regional and international meetings, the

ICRC, like the League, tries to strengthen its connections with the information and public relations services of the National Societies.

The ICRC delegates in the field are, as is frequently said in Geneva, "the eyes and ears of the organization". Sometimes their role as spokesmen tends to be forgotten. It is true that their primary task is to bring protection and assistance to victims of conflicts, and to do this they have to negotiate with the established authorities. But they also have the task of making the principles of the Red Cross, the Geneva Conventions and the role and activities of the ICRC throughout the world known in various circles and particularly in armies and educational institutions. Although the rule of discretion restricts the information they may divulge, the delegates are also called upon from time to time to inform the press of the country they are visiting of the activities of the organization. This giving of information takes on particular importance in times of a major international crisis in which the ICRC is operational, often right from the start. At such times it is essential for the special envoys of the international press to be able to count on the co-operation of the ICRC delegates on the spot, and especially to be sure of receiving from a reliable source information on the extent of the humanitarian needs resulting from the crisis, the steps taken by the ICRC to deal with them, the way the action is being carried out, and the kinds of problems encountered. In these circumstances, the ICRC headquarters in Geneva normally sends one of its press officers to the field to speak for the delegation to the special envoys of the international press.

The role of the relay services varies considerably in different parts of the world, which makes for unequal circulation of information. In Africa, for example, where the ICRC has been active on a large scale since the beginning of the 70's, their contribution is extremely small. This situation results from there being no representatives of the African media in Geneva and from the fact that most of the National Red Cross Societies were created very recently, with the coming of independence. The absence of these two relay services prompted the ICRC to attempt, at the end of 1978, an experiment in southern Africa, this being the main scene of ICRC activities on the continent of Africa. Seeing that its work for the victims of the Rhodesian conflict was considerably hampered by a general lack of knowledge among the peoples of Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and the neighbouring countries about the Red Cross and its protective sign, the ICRC launched a large information campaign in that part of Africa, with the aim of making the mission of the ICRC, the role of its delegates, and the meaning of the protective sign of the red cross better known and understood. In Salisbury, Lusaka and several other towns of the region,

it set up its own information network made up of communication specialists, some of whom were recruited on the spot and had their own means of production. Priority was given to working with the local mass media, in particular radio which is alone in being able to ensure a wide distribution of information in the rural areas. Programmes were prepared not only in English, but also in the traditional languages of the area, such as Shona, Ndebele and Swahili. In addition, posters, calendars and cartoon strips were used to convey the message to schools and people living in refugee camps. It is still too early to assess the effect of this campaign but the first results are encouraging.

Means of communication

To reach its target groups, the ICRC uses a range of means incorporating the written and spoken word and pictures, devised and formulated by its Press and Information Division. Similar means are used in other international organizations.

Information aimed at very varied audiences relies basically on the printed text. Thanks to the combination of text and image, and also to its ready availability and ease of storage, the periodical or brochure is still unrivalled. The other advantages of the printed text are the wealth of information it contains, its moderate price and the ease with which it can be distributed. The main publications of the ICRC are:

- the *International Review of the Red Cross*, the official organ of the International Red Cross. It is sent to the various ministries of the States signatories to the Geneva Conventions, to the National Red Cross Societies, to universities, libraries, etc. With a circulation of 5,200 copies, the *Review* is published once every two months in French, English and Spanish. There is also an abridged version in German;
- the *ICRC Bulletin*, which comes out on the first Wednesday of each month. It is intended primarily for the media and for the National Red Cross Societies with the aim of conveying regularly as broad a picture as possible of the activities and the life of the organization. It is also sent to the diplomatic missions. With a circulation of 6,750 copies, the *ICRC Bulletin* is published in French, English, Spanish and German;
- the *Annual Report*. This is a reference work intended primarily for the traditional interlocutors of the ICRC, that is, the governments, the National Red Cross Societies and the mass media. With a circulation of 4,200 copies, the *Annual Report* is published in French, English, Spanish and German;

- the *press releases*. In French, English, Spanish and German, they aim to give immediate information on a current operation, and to publicize a standpoint or a decision. They are sent by telex to the Swiss and international media, and by post to the governments (ministries, diplomatic missions in Geneva and New York), to the National Red Cross Societies and to the international organizations;
- the ICRC also issues a number of ad hoc publications, such as situation reports, monographs and other general information brochures.

While the printed text is today, and will remain tomorrow, the principal means of communication of the ICRC, it can nevertheless be expected that audio-visual means will gain ground in the coming years, especially with the introduction of the video-television into the Red Cross world. Unlike the printed text, audio-visual messages require the receiver to be equipped for their reception. This necessity naturally restricts the number of people who can be reached by these means. It is therefore not surprising to see that, apart from radio programmes, the audio-visual productions of the ICRC are destined almost exclusively for the industrialized countries. Among the principal audio-visual productions are:

- the radio programmes on the *Red Cross Broadcasting Service (RCBS)*. They are prepared in conjunction with the Information Bureau of the League of Red Cross Societies in the ICRC studio in Geneva, and are broadcast on the short wave in French, English, Spanish, German and Arabic by the Swiss Administration and directed towards Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe. RCBS also produces monthly programmes in Portuguese for the Portuguese-speaking countries in Europe, Africa, and Latin America. RCBS also prepares ad hoc magazines for some National Red Cross Societies and radio-broadcasting companies especially in Africa. These programmes are recorded on magnetic tape and sent by post; they are then broadcast on the medium wave;
- *photographs*. Some 15,000 black and white photographs and slides are filed in the photograph library of the ICRC. As historical and current records of the life and activities of the organization, these photographs are in great demand from the National Red Cross Societies, the press, specialized reviews, etc.;
- *films*. For understandable financial reasons, the ICRC can only produce a limited number of 16 mm films. They are used mainly by the National Red Cross Societies and television channels;

- *video-television*. The ICRC, in conjunction with the League of Red Cross Societies, acquired, at the end of 1978, the technical equipment required for the video production of educational and informative programmes on $\frac{3}{4}$ " video-cassettes. A plan has been devised to increase the use of the video-television in the Red Cross world in the 1980's.

Other means of transmitting information are press conferences, exhibitions, visits to the organization's headquarters, personal contacts, etc.

The role of the ICRC public relations service

One must remember that public relations concerns all levels of the ICRC, all the staff members in Geneva and in the field as much as the members of the Committee. Each person in his own social and professional milieu is duty bound to make the ICRC better understood and to cultivate a climate favourable to it. The Press and Information Division does not have the monopoly of communication; its primary function is to ensure the continuity of relations between the ICRC and its target groups by a regular multilateral information operation through the various means listed above.

Moreover, like ICRC delegates in the field, the division is a sort of antenna attuned to the world. Its task is to gather and process information on the current international scene and especially to analyse systematically the despatches, news and commentaries published by the large press agencies, newspapers and periodicals which are considered to reflect the different contemporary trends of thought.

The division also has to trace and evaluate the attitudes of the ICRC's target groups, to study their scales of values, and to interpret their aims and policies, not only so as to keep them better informed and to make communication easier, but also to provide the directing bodies of the ICRC with information and evaluations likely to help in the making of decisions.

This circular process of communication becomes very important in matters involving the credibility of the ICRC. Through its observation of the outside world, the Press and Information Division should, as far as possible, anticipate the reactions of its target groups. It should try especially to gauge how they will receive ICRC decisions and imagine the best way to inform them of these decisions.

In sum, by participating in the decision-making process, the division can not only help the directing bodies by shedding light on problems and

events under discussion, but also take into account in its function of external dissemination the reasons underlying decisions. This is the circular process of communication: an inward flow of information, followed by its integration in the decision mechanism, its dissemination to the target groups, and finally the feed-back of reactions.

The Press and Information Division is subordinate to the Executive Board of the ICRC and its President. It thus has direct access to the decision-making body responsible for directing operations. This allows the division to act as a knowledgeable intermediary between the ICRC and its target groups and to give helpful advice to the directing bodies which decide ICRC aims and policies.

Alain MODOUX

*Head of the ICRC Press and Information
Division*

*THE ICRC, THE LEAGUE AND THE REPORT
ON THE RE-APPRAISAL OF THE ROLE OF THE RED CROSS (V)*

Dissemination of knowledge of international
humanitarian law and of Red Cross principles

Comments by the ICRC and the League

The Tansley Report does not devote a special heading to the problem of dissemination, its remarks on this subject being scattered in various chapters. In the interest of greater clarity, the ICRC and the League felt it would be useful to bring them together, to summarize them, so as to identify the general concepts.

The Report's comments may thus be divided into two groups.

1. General considerations

There are two important general considerations in the approach of the Report to the dissemination of knowledge of humanitarian law and of Red Cross principles: ignorance of the subject within the movement and the difficulty of disseminating it.

The Tansley Report notes that *the general public did not know very much about Red Cross* (p. 13), and that *Red Cross leaders and members know very little about what Red Cross is and does outside their own activity* (p. 49).

This is true both for the content and meaning of the principles of the movement which are *not well understood by the majority of Red Cross members* (p. 49).

According to the Report, great confusion prevails about the exact meaning of the essential functions of protection and assistance and of concepts of human values.

We share this opinion; these notions need to be clarified and explained. It has been observed in particular in the course of armed conflicts—to refer only to these—the extent to which ignorance of Red Cross principles and of the Geneva Conventions can prejudice humanitarian activities of the Red Cross and hence cause harm to the victims. The ICRC, profoundly concerned over this situation, wishes to continue and intensify its efforts at dissemination, in co-operation with the National Societies and the League, and with Governments and the mass media.

The Tansley Report furthermore recognizes that *dissemination of the Geneva Conventions is a difficult task* (p. 23).

It is difficult because it is a long-term effort which offers no hope of immediate results. We must also recognize that speaking of war, even for the purpose of attenuating its effects, is an unpopular venture. It is nevertheless essential, since it would indeed be useless to develop and codify humanitarian law if it were finally to remain unknown to those responsible for applying it.

It is against this background that the “First European Red Cross seminar on the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions” (Warsaw, 1977) endorsed three basic principles, which we believe to have a very general value and deserve to be presented here as guiding rules in matters of dissemination:

1. *Although dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law is a responsibility of governments, it should be a direct concern of the Red Cross in general and particularly of each National Society in its own country.*
2. *The dissemination of the Red Cross ideals must not be limited to the Geneva Conventions but should cover Red Cross principles and be included within the broad concept of man's responsibilities to man.*
3. *Dissemination cannot be dissociated from the propagation of a spirit of Peace by all members of the Red Cross family. Dissemination should never make war appear “acceptable”.*

2. Particular proposals

1. Presentation of the law in simplified form

The Tansley Report states: *A first step might be to simplify the law, in information terms...* (p. 69).

The ICRC and the League share the Report opinion on this point. Taking into account suggestions which have been made, the ICRC has

set up a working group in conjunction with the League which has attempted to summarize the fundamental principles of humanitarian law in order to facilitate its dissemination.

The group has produced a draft ¹ and we await the comments of participants in the Twenty-third International *Red Cross Conference*.

2. Information for those concerned

The Report states further: *In information terms, there is a need for something between Jean Pictet's The Principles of International Humanitarian Law and the brief Soldier's Manual published by the ICRC (p. 69).*

The range of ICRC publications is more extensive than one might suppose from the Report. For several years, the ICRC has been making a considerable effort to extend the field of its publications, with regard to subjects, translations, audio-visual presentations and the different circles addressed—such as the armed forces, schools, universities and the general public.

A total of over 20 different publications try to cover the varied and wide range of readers likely to be interested in humanitarian law or the Red Cross and its principles. For instance, the *School Manual*—and its accompanying *Teacher's Manual*—has reached over two million copies, has been translated into more than a dozen languages and introduced in some 40 countries in all continents.

In the next three years, the ICRC intends to put out the following publications:

Commentary to the Additional Protocols

This publication would be the counterpart of the *Commentary* to the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Brief commentary to the Additional Protocols

This publication would be in response to the wish expressed by many National Societies for a simple teaching aid to be used in their dissemination programme.

Handbook of the Laws and Customs of War

This handbook would be primarily for the armed forces and would summarize, for every subject, the essential points of the laws and customs of war from 1907 to 1977.

¹ Published in *International Review of the Red Cross*, No. 206, September-October 1978, p. 247-249.

Text book on international humanitarian law

This text book is at present being prepared in conjunction with UNESCO and the Henry Dunant Institute.

Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols

There would be a need for the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols in a single volume, in which the complementary nature of the various articles would be clearly apparent by the use of differentiated type.

Essential rules of the Geneva Conventions and of the Additional Protocols

The present booklet (*Essential Rules*) should be re-issued so as to include the essential provisions of the Additional Protocols.

Index to the Geneva Conventions and the Protocols

The present index to the Geneva Conventions should be re-edited and supplemented with references to the Additional Protocols, a task which might be entrusted to the Henry-Dunant Institute.

Book on the ICRC's principles

Collection of articles stating the ICRC's principles on about a dozen specific points.

Practical guide for National Societies in the event of conflicts

The issue of such a guide would fulfil a recommendation of the World Red Cross Conference on Peace held at Belgrade in 1975.

Booklet on identification systems

This booklet would summarize all that has been done in this field, taking into account the Additional Protocols.

A part from these definite projects, the ICRC would like, if possible, to issue two manuals giving examples of the implementation of humanitarian law: one for armed forces; the other for National Societies and the general public.

Several National Societies have produced publications in these areas, and many have also made use of ICRC publications. The ICRC and the League consider that this valuable activity by National Societies should be continued and developed.

3. Regional approach

The Tansley Report suggests that *a regional approach could take into account cultural values and practices (in the regions under study), as well*

as associating Red Cross values more directly with the values found in a particular culture (p. 69).

It was precisely in the spirit of this pertinent comment that the ICRC organized a mission for studying African traditions for similarities and differences between African humanism and the fundamental principles of humanitarian law as expressed in the Geneva Conventions.¹

In these studies, the ICRC does no more than suggest lines for Possible research, since it is up to the countries themselves to follow up the studies, through specialized institutes, universities, etc.

ICRC regional delegations play an important role in this connection, through their contacts and the knowledge they gain of principles and traditions in the places where they are working.

Encouraging the staff of National Societies to attend regional seminars is also a reflection of the ICRC's desire to take regional cultural values into consideration. To cite some examples:

- Organization of a Regional Training Institute for National Society leaders in Central Africa et Kinshasa, Zaïre (August 1973);
- Seminar on the Conventions, humanitarian law and first aid at Kampala, Uganda (February 1976);
- National seminar on Red Cross principles and international humanitarian law at Ouagadougou, Upper Volta (March 1976);
- Seminar on international humanitarian law and methods for its dissemination at the Henry Dunant Institute (October 1976);
- National seminar on the Geneva Conventions at Bogota, Colombia (November 1976);
- First European seminar on the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions at Warsaw, Poland (March 1977);
- First African English-speaking seminar of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions at Mombasa, Kenya (August 1978);
- First Asian seminar of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions at Kuala Lumpur (November 1978).

Other seminars are scheduled for 1979 in Tunis, Bogota, etc.

¹ See *International Review of the Red Cross*, No. 179, February 1976, p. 57-63; No. 185, August 1976, p. 387-401.—*International Review* published also articles on Polish tradition, No. 171, June 1975, p. 272-280; No. 192, March 1977, p. 128-132; on Islam, etc.

4. Officer responsible for dissemination

The Report suggests also that *at a bare minimum, every National Society should have a protection officer who would be responsible for dissemination efforts, reporting and liaison with ICRC (p. 70).*

In October 1975, in a memorandum distributed to all National Societies, the ICRC encouraged all those which had not yet done so to appoint a person responsible for dissemination.

Resolution XII on implementation and dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, adopted unanimously at the International Red Cross Conference at Teheran, asked the ICRC to support the efforts of governments and National Societies in dissemination, in particular by preparing information material suited to the spheres and areas it was proposed to reach, advising National Societies on drawing up plans of action in this field, systematically publicizing the achievements of governments and National Societies, and organizing or participating in seminars on international humanitarian law. To put this resolution into effect, the ICRC must be able to rely upon the participation of the National Societies.

The appointment of an officer by each Society should ensure the exchange of information and continued activity at the national level.

The ICRC would thus be in a position to act as co-ordinator of information on dissemination, on the basis of the particulars it receives, or should receive, from the National Societies in reply to its inquiries.

5. Co-operation between the ICRC and the League

The Tansley Report does not refer to co-operation between the ICRC and the League in this connection.

Generally speaking, the Red Cross has everything to gain from increased support by the League for the ICRC's efforts at dissemination. This co-operation will be greatly facilitated now with art. 5. 1. j. of the new League Constitution, stating that the League will *assist the ICRC in the promotion and development of international humanitarian law, and collaborate with it in the dissemination of this law and of the fundamental Principles of the Red Cross among the National Societies.*

Two other sub-paragraphs in article 5 of the League's Constitution will also necessitate a close collaboration between both institutions for their implementation:

- g) *to encourage and coordinate between National Societies the exchange of ideas for the education of children and young people in humanitarian ideals and for the development of friendly relations between young people of all countries;*

- h) *to assist National Societies to recruit members from the population as a whole and inculcate the Principles and Ideals of the Red Cross.*

For the dissemination of Red Cross Principles and humanitarian ideals, particularly among young people, co-operation between the League and the ICRC is essential. The two institutions will define the nature of this collaboration and establish guidelines for it.

3. Conclusions

To give greater effect to its work of dissemination, the ICRC believes that its policies in this field must be characterized by:

- (a) attempts to find methods and language suited to the various recipients;
- (b) priority efforts directed to the armed forces, primarily responsible for the application of humanitarian law;
- (c) development of personal contacts and establishment of dialogue;
- (d) the determination, in any complete programme for dissemination, to give a prominent place to the contribution of the Red Cross to peace and a spirit of peace.

The League considers that these policies of the ICRC should receive its full support.¹ To this end, the ICRC and the League reproduce the following concrete suggestions adopted at the "Seminar on international humanitarian Law and Methods for its Dissemination", at the Henry Dunant Institute in October 1976.²

1. *Dissemination, being the propagation of an ideal, must be done by strongly motivated individuals who believe in that ideal.*
2. *Dissemination must be adapted to the categories of people for whom it is intended (military, medical personnel, students, children, public administration, members of National Societies of the Red Cross, the general public, etc.)*

¹ In October 1978, the League and the ICRC adopted a Red Cross programme for the dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and of Red Cross principles and ideals. Additional information on this subject will be given in a forthcoming issue of the *Review*.

² See *International Review of the Red Cross*, No. 188, Nov. 1976, pp. 565-567.

3. *Methods of dissemination must be diversified according to the various parts of the world in which they are used.*
 4. *Dissemination needs money: all National Societies which can afford it should have a “dissemination programme” on their regular budget and should envisage financing a similar programme for less fortunate Societies, with ICRC technical assistance.*
 5. *Each development programme of the League should include a budget for dissemination; the programme budget should be established jointly by the participating National Society, and the ICRC, in consultation with the League Secretariat and the operating society.*
-

ICRC policy on operational information

Comments by the ICRC

1. Comments in the Tansley Report regarding the ICRC's information policy

The policy of discretion (of the ICRC) has, in the past, been justified on the grounds of ensuring that the most possible is achieved for the victims. While Red Cross has achieved much on the basis of discretion in the past, the movement should recognise the danger that discretion is comfortable to both the controlling authority and the Red Cross. Thus it may be continued not because it is necessary but simply because it is comfortable.

While it is generally agreed by many that some type of discretion contributes to Red Cross success and is therefore one of the unwritten 'principles' of the movement in protection matters, it may be well to remember that the ultimate test of Red Cross acceptability is action within the bounds of expectations. If there is a general expectation that Red Cross should use some types of publicity, then such action should be acceptable even if opposed by a particular party (p. 71).

In short, while recognizing that the policy of discretion has generally served the interests of the victims, the Tansley Report suggests that in future the ICRC should make this policy more flexible by engaging in certain forms of information activity which would eventually be all the more readily accepted, as they would become an integral part of established doctrine. This development, according to the Tansley Report, could only strengthen the position of the Red Cross in the eyes of authorities which violate with impunity both humane principles and humanitarian law. This change should ultimately be in the interest of the victims.

2. The reasons for the policy of discretion

The information supplied by the ICRC on its operations is determined by the interests of the victims. This calls for discretion, not so much with regard to what the institution does, but to what it sees and hears in the course of its representatives' activities in the field. For example, the ICRC does not publish its delegates' findings in prisons and detention camps. These are contained in reports sent only to the authorities concerned.

Discretion seems even more necessary today, since the humanitarian questions dealt with by the ICRC, by their very nature, are set in a highly political context. If it is to fulfil its role as a neutral intermediary between belligerents, and especially to be recognized as such, the ICRC must take care not to allow itself to become involved in controversies of a political character, which are very often conducted publicly. In addition, the ICRC carries on extremely delicate negotiations whose only chance of success depends on their remaining confidential.

In conclusion, discretion is a working method that has long since proved its worth and does not indicate a preference for secrecy.

3. Limits to the policy of discretion

It is an exaggeration to state, as did the Tansley Report, that discretion is one of the movement's *unwritten principles* with regard to protection (p. 71). Of course, States must be able to rely on the traditional discretion of the ICRC, but not on its acquiescent silence; discretion has its limits.

The ICRC's discretion is almost exclusively concerned with activities under the heading *protection*. In the field of *assistance*, discretion is rarely helpful to victims. In fact, the reverse is normally the case: the ICRC has to alert the international community, in particular governments and National Societies, in order to obtain the necessary resources. Like other charitable organizations, therefore, the ICRC, to justify its requests for support, must supply as much information as possible on the situation of victims and their needs.

In *protection*, however, discretion is the rule and publicity the exception. As may be seen in the following section, the ICRC doctrine does nevertheless determine a number of criteria which, depending on the situation, make it possible to decide on the policy to be followed concerning information, more particularly to distinguish those cases that demand some *publicity*, to use the term of the Tansley Report, or at least a public communication.

4. Information policy in the event of violation of fundamental humanitarian principles or of the Geneva Conventions

In the event of serious violations of fundamental humanitarian principles or of the Geneva Conventions, established doctrine does not consider discretion to be an unbreakable rule. Although the ICRC normally refrains from making public statements on acts attributed to belligerents, it does from time to time drop its reserve. Two criteria must be met if it is to do so: on the one hand, such publicity must be in the interest of the persons or groups affected or threatened; on the other hand, ICRC delegates must have been eye-witnesses of the violations alleged. But it must be admitted that such cases have been extremely rare in comparison with the number of violations of humanitarian law. This accounts for apparent discrepancies of treatment of comparable situations.

While maintaining its traditional policy of discretion and its concern for the interest of the victims, the ICRC will therefore make an effort to publish more systematically in its *Annual Report* or, if circumstances require (especially in the case of urgent problems), through the press, such matters as:

- appeals of a general nature addressed to belligerents asking them to respect the Geneva Conventions and fundamental humanitarian principles;
- special approaches to belligerents in grave cases of non-observance of the Conventions witnessed by its delegates;
- requests to the parties to obtain the essential facilities which must be granted to the ICRC in conformity with the Geneva Conventions;
- offers of the ICRC's services addressed, in accordance with Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions, to the parties to a non-international armed conflict, and the response thereto.

The forms of publicity proposed by the Tansley Report, such as the publication of *a list of problems encountered by the ICRC over time with regard to the treatment of political prisoners or prisoners of war, without giving particular names, dates and places* (p. 71) might be adopted, but precisely because of their general and anonymous character they seem unlikely to have the desired effect on international public opinion.

Regarding a *Red Cross statement as to the extent of torture in the world* (p. 71), attention is drawn to the publication in the *International Review of the Red Cross*¹ of a document by the ICRC on this important subject.

¹ *International Review*, December 1976, pp. 610-616.

5. Information policy under the Law of The Hague

The ICRC has often been requested by governments or other political bodies to take a stand, for example, concerning the use of napalm or indiscriminate bombing.

In general, the ICRC has refrained from stating its attitude on these subjects, believing not only that the rules on the conduct of hostilities do not come directly within its competence, but that this type of intervention would inevitably involve it in political affairs.

Nevertheless, some time ago, the attitude of the ICRC on this matter underwent a change. The International Committee has in fact found it difficult, if not impossible, to advance the law of Geneva while ignoring the loopholes in the law of The Hague, the interdependence of these two laws having become more and more obvious in practice. The ICRC therefore proposed that the draft Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions should include several provisions in the field of the law of The Hague. On the same lines, it also organized two conferences of government experts to discuss the use of certain conventional weapons.

As a result, the ICRC will in the future face problems of application of the Protocol provisions relating to the conduct of hostilities. If these provisions are violated, it may be obliged to make its voice heard. In such cases, its policy will be analogous to that laid down for violations of humanitarian law as defined above.

6. Information policy on activities outside the Conventions

In this area, the prime aim of the ICRC is to obtain access to political detainees, to bring them protection and assistance. These activities are usually possible only because they are removed from the glare of publicity, the more so since they are outside the scope of international humanitarian law. They are the result of negotiations conducted on a purely pragmatic basis, which means that the ICRC's room for manoeuvre is severely limited. Consequently, information published by the ICRC about its activities in aid of political detainees is very succinct, and generally comprises only the names of places of detention visited and the date of the visit to each, together with a reference to the conditions under which the visits were made (e.g., interviews without witnesses).

These communications contain no details of the delegates' findings, these being transmitted only to the detaining authorities. It should be pointed out, however, that the ICRC reserves the right to state publicly the limits of its action if a government does not respect the procedure agreed on or attempts to exploit abusively—for the purposes of propa-

ganda, for example—the activities of the ICRC. Moreover, if the detaining authorities publish partially or inaccurately the reports made to them by the ICRC, the Committee may react by making the reports public in their entirety.

The ICRC may, moreover, suspend or terminate its protection activities if it is convinced that the presence of its delegates serves as a cover-up for the detaining authorities and that it is not or is no longer possible for it to continue working in the interest of the victims. Such an important decision is then the subject of a detailed public statement.

Finally, the ICRC may publish a detaining authority's refusal of its services. In fact, the discretion it has shown on the subject hitherto is in some ways an encouragement to those States which systematically refuse any protection activities by the ICRC. While admitting that, from the purely legal viewpoint, its activities in aid of political detainees are outside the scope of the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC should be enabled to discharge the humanitarian duties which no other institution can accomplish. This is almost always the case with regard to political detainees. For this reason, it considers that a refusal in such a case constitutes a denial of the humanitarian mission conferred upon it by the international community, and that that community should be informed of the fact.

Information in the Red Cross

Comments by the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies

1. The Tansley Report viewpoint

The Tansley Report gives the following comments under the heading *The concept of International Red Cross* :

Members of Red Cross have an ambivalent approach to the concept of and use of the term "International Red Cross". On some occasions great effort is expended to enhance the idea of one Red Cross, of Red Cross moving as a unity, of acting in the name of the International Red Cross. On other occasions equal pains are taken to distinguish between, say, the League and the ICRC, or the ICRC and individual National Societies, and to accentuate the differences in purposes and structure of the various Red Cross organs. Which approach is adopted at any given time seems dependent upon what serves the best immediate need of the Red Cross organ involved. . .

Yet the term has real meaning in the eyes of the public, of governments, and of Red Cross members themselves—meaning well beyond the convenience of the words. It stresses what to many people is the most distinctive quality of Red Cross: its international character. Further, this quality should become even more distinctive of Red Cross in the future than it has been in the past.

There seems little doubt that the term can be used as a Red Cross asset more effectively than it has been to date. . .

In summary, as a means of reinforcing the image of Red Cross as a movement, as a means of strengthening that movement and emphasising its international character, the concept of International Red Cross should be applied as widely as possible, in thought and in use. Only as members

of a movement will the separate parts achieve their maximum effectiveness (p. 118-119).

2. Collaboration between the League and the ICRC

Until now the League and the ICRC have been entirely autonomous in drawing up and developing their respective policies on information and public relations. On day-to-day matters, however, good collaboration has been established over recent years: those in charge of information and public relations in the League and the ICRC have maintained close and regular contact enabling them to exchange opinions and experience, while joint action has gradually taken definite form. For example, the ICRC has been regularly invited to meetings organized by the League for those in charge of information and public relations in the National Societies. The ICRC, in turn, frequently lends its audio-visual equipment to the League.

3. Special features of the present system

1. In establishing and developing their policies on information and public relations on separate and autonomous lines, the League and the ICRC have been intent on stressing their own identities and implanting awareness of their individual natures in the public mind.

This distinctive attitude of the League and the ICRC is especially marked in Geneva, in the relations of the two institutions with the representatives of the world's press. It is less noticeable among the National Societies, many of them preferring to speak of "the International Red Cross" when describing the activities of the League and the ICRC to people in their own countries.

2. Until now, each institution has gone to the trouble of developing its own information media (publications, audio-visual material, etc.). This has sometimes led to duplication, dissipation of effort, a less than rational use of the already meagre human and material resources available. These weaknesses have been accentuated by what might be termed the "objective difficulties" inherent in information and public relations work for the Red Cross at international level:
 - the many and varied kinds of audience, each with its own language, culture and social system;

- the wide divergences in the levels and effectiveness of information and public relations services in different parts of the world and the consequent inequality in the dissemination of facts;
- rival claims for information by those National Societies directly involved in “current affairs”, on the one hand, and the international mass media, on the other;
- the very limited resources in staff and money as compared with the huge needs to be met.

4. Towards greater collaboration

1. In the existing organization of the International Red Cross, taking into account the distribution of functions between the League and the ICRC it would appear difficult to refer systematically to both or either as the “International Red Cross”, instead of “the League” or “the ICRC”, as the case may be.

Nevertheless, as the Tansley Report makes clear, it should be possible, in certain cases, to make wider use of the concept of International Red Cross—in particular, where the League and the ICRC have occasion to conduct a joint operation.

In addition, within their own spheres of public relations, the League and the ICRC ought to try to make evident not so much the qualities which differentiate the various Red Cross bodies but the unity of the movement and the universality of its principles. There should be regular consultations between the two institutions, in particular when settling their objectives in respect of information and public relations, to ensure that their planned activities tend in the same direction and complement each other. It would be extremely useful if the League and the ICRC were to present to the National Societies a joint proposal on the best way to inform the general public on the organization and the international activities of the Red Cross. In fact, according to some National Societies, such information is not merely desirable but imperative.

2. More systematic joint planning of this kind should be accompanied by efforts to standardize their means and methods in the sphere of information and public relations and to use them in a more rational way. With the existing resources and staff available, it would be possible to make considerable progress towards this end in the near future. Below are a few examples.

a) Audio-visual

This is undoubtedly the field of activity in which the opportunities for collaboration are most obvious. In fact, although the audio-visual services of the League and the ICRC cater for the same audiences (National Societies, mass media, publishers, etc.) and are required to meet the same kinds of need, each institution has its own photo and film libraries, and its own material and teams for producing the required material. It might therefore well be asked whether it is not time that the two institutions pooled their resources, with a view to creating a joint audio-visual centre to produce photographs, films, video tapes, exhibition materials, and so on.

On the same subject, it should be pointed out that the movement urgently needs a documentary 35/16 mm film on the Red Cross in general. This film could be made jointly by the League and the ICRC before the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference in 1981. Finance could be obtained by subscription from the National Societies.

b) Broadcasts and radio programmes

RCBS (Red Cross Broadcasting Service), the radio station of the ICRC could be opened up to the whole of the Red Cross. The journalistic content could be devised and prepared in conjunction with the League, but production would remain in the hands of the ICRC. The League would contribute 50 per cent of the costs of production and transmission (depreciation of equipment, fees to announcers, etc.).

c) Publications

The League and the ICRC could devise and produce a joint report every two years as a public relations document for widespread distribution, describing with the aid of numerous illustrations and diagrams the work of the Red Cross at international level. The first issue could appear in autumn 1979, for the meeting of the Council of Delegates. Production would be by the League and the ICRC in collaboration.

d) World Red Cross Day

World Red Cross Day is an unrivalled opportunity for National Red Cross Societies to publicize their organizations within their own countries. The League, which has so far chosen the theme for the World Day and prepared the basic material for the National Societies, will in future consult the ICRC more closely in making the arrange-

ments, as has already been done, in fact, for World Red Cross Day 1978.

3. Strengthening the information and public relations structures at regional and national levels

The information sent out from Geneva through the international mass media is of prime importance for the League and the ICRC. Each National Society plays a no less vital role in imparting knowledge of the movement. Once there is awareness in a country of the profound interdependence of the international and national manifestations of the Red Cross the National Society becomes the voice of the whole movement for the public in that country. Such solidarity requires very close links between the League and the ICRC, and between these two institutions and each National Society.

If National Societies are to be capable of providing the best possible public relations and of discharging fully within their countries the mission of transmitting news of the two international Red Cross organizations, they must have at their disposal an efficient information service run by one or more professional public relations staff. The League's development programme is helping to achieve this aim. But as part of the joint effort described throughout this Report, the ICRC should make a specific contribution to this particular aspect of the League's programme, for instance by offering the services of some of its experts to speak at courses and seminars organized by the League.

It is necessary for the League and the ICRC to adapt their information policy and material (substance as well as form) to the needs and circumstances of the National Societies, which will have to be consulted regularly for the purpose: hence the importance, for those in charge of information and public relations services in National Societies with similar needs and a common culture, of regular meetings, technical seminars, editorial conferences, etc. As in the fields dealt with above, it is the League which must take the initiative, but again the ICRC ought to be closely associated with the work of its fellow institution.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

APPEAL

on the occasion of the entry into force of the 1977 additional Protocols

GENEVA, 24 November 1978

*To Governments of States Parties to
the 1949 Geneva Conventions*

On 7 December 1978 the two Protocols—one for the protection of victims of international armed conflicts and one for the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts—additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 will come into force.

These two Protocols were hammered out by the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law applicable in Armed Conflicts convened in Geneva by the Swiss Government, the depositary of the Geneva Conventions. On 10 June 1977 the plenipotentiaries of more than 100 States and of several liberation movements signed the “Final Act” of the Conference, after four annual sessions which had been preceded by several years of preparatory work. Since June 1977, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the architect of the preparatory work, has been gratified to

see that the representatives of 46 States signed the Protocols themselves at a ceremony which took place in Berne on 12 December 1977. The Protocol will remain open for further signatures until 10 December 1978. Countries which have not signed the Protocols by that date may nevertheless accede to them.

Pursuant to Articles 95 of Protocol I and 23 of Protocol II, these documents become effective six months after deposit of two instruments of ratification or accession. For each State subsequently acceding to them, the Protocols come into force six months after deposit of the relevant instrument.

The Government of Ghana, on 28 February 1978, and the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 7 June 1978, having deposited their letters of ratification and accession with the Swiss Federal Council, the two Protocols will come into force on 7 December this year. Thereupon, they shall be part and parcel of positive law and take their place in world history.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has every reason to congratulate itself for this achievement, coming after the long effort which it has sustained since its foundation, with the constant support of the Swiss Confederation, with the aim of ensuring that human beings are better protected in time of armed conflict until peace based on justice reigns on earth. It was from such efforts that the various versions of the Geneva Conventions emerged in 1864, 1906, 1929 and 1949, to provide an invaluable safeguard for so many human beings. The 1949 Conventions, with some 450 articles, are now supplemented by almost 150 provisions—nearly all adopted by consensus, we would stress—of the Protocols. Together they contain some 600 articles.

While no enterprise of this nature may achieve perfection, it is agreed that the 1977 Protocols are a considerable progress in conferring the force of law on the principles contained in humanitarian law recognised by all peoples. They are a timely restatement of the respect due to an enemy who has been disarmed and to persons taking no part in hostilities. They also provide the Red Cross with stronger grounds on which to base its so necessary action. It may be held that the significance of the provisions in which the work from 1974 to 1977 culminated is comparable to that of the recasting of the Conventions themselves in 1949.

As we approach the end of the year in which was celebrated with zeal throughout the world the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Dunant, the prime mover in the founding of the Red Cross and promoter of the Geneva Conventions, the International Committee appeals to the governments of States parties to those Conventions to ratify as soon as possible the two 1977 Protocols or to accede thereto and thereby include the names of their countries on the humanitarian roll of honour. The International Committee, for its part, is prepared to help as much as it is considered useful in promoting the accession procedure.

By becoming parties to the Protocols, by ratification or accession, governments will demonstrate the importance which they attach to the better observance throughout the world of the fundamental rules of Geneva and will at the same time manifest their determination to ensure that they are implemented. Thereby, they will respond to the desire of the peoples to see the universal acceptance of guarantees which are essential for mankind.

A copy of this appeal is being sent to the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies of the countries concerned.

Recognition of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society

GENEVA, 15 November 1978

Circular No. 511

*To the Central Committees of National Red Cross,
Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you that the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, which was officially recognized on 15 September 1977 by the International Committee of the Red Cross provided that the said Society submitted a declaration of adherence to the Statutes of the International Red Cross, has now transmitted this document to us, in compliance with the procedure resulting from Resolution XI of the Seventeenth International Red Cross Conference. This official recognition brings the number of member Societies of the International Red Cross to 125.

This new Society, founded in 1939 as a branch of the Australian Red Cross, was recognized by Act of Parliament on 23 March 1976. It applied for recognition by the International Committee on 1 August 1977. Its application was supported by a report on its activities, its Rules and a

copy of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society Incorporation Act, 1976. The Act provides that the objects of the Society, consistent with its Rules and the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, are to help the sick and wounded in the event of emergency and public disaster of any sort, and to improve health, to prevent disease and to alleviate suffering. This provision may be considered to be equivalent to approval of the Society's function as an auxiliary to the public authorities.

The Papua New Guinea Red Cross, which representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies and of the ICRC have several times visited, is active throughout the State. Its work includes co-operation in blood transfusion and assistance to disabled children; it plays an essential role in the provision of first-aid posts and it assumes full responsibility for the distribution of medical supplies in areas difficult of access and not reached by the Government health services.

The Society's Patron is Sir Tore Lokoloko, Governor General. The President is Lady Elisabeth Kiki. The Society's headquarters is at Boroko.¹

The Government of Papua New Guinea, on 7 April 1976, confirmed that the State was a party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, through a declaration of succession effective as from 16 September 1975 when Papua New Guinea became independent.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has pleasure in welcoming the Papua New Guinea Red Cross to membership of the International Red Cross, in accrediting it and commending it, by this circular, to all other National Societies, and in expressing sincere good wishes for its success in the discharge and development of its humanitarian activities.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Alexandre Hay
President

¹ The new Society's address is : Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 6545, Boroko, Papua New Guinea.

HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE AWARDED TO THE ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross was one of the recipients of the 1978 Human Rights Prize, which the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, presented to the President of the ICRC, Mr. Alexander Hay, in New York on 11 December before the United Nations General Assembly, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. The prize was awarded to the ICRC for its work in promoting observance of human rights.

In his speech of thanks, the President of the ICRC said that all the National Red Cross Societies and their federation, the League, could deservedly claim a share in the honour conferred upon the ICRC. He also thanked the governments that permitted the ICRC to carry out its protection and assistance work in their territory. Some of these activities were laid down in the Geneva Conventions; others were not, for example, aid for political detainees, which the ICRC has been providing for fifteen years, in more than seventy countries, where it has visited over three hundred thousand detainees in this category.

President Hay asked the delegates present to call upon their governments to allow the ICRC to extend its humanitarian work even further. He ended with these words:

“Through its work, the ICRC hopes to contribute to the promotion of respect for human dignity, and also to help in restoring harmony to national communities torn apart by strife. Its wish is to take part in the establishment of lasting peace among all peoples—an aim which it shares with the United Nations, and for the achievement of which all mankind yearns.”

Mr. JEAN PICTET HONOURED

The Torstein Dale Prize, founded by the Norwegian Red Cross in 1975 in memory of its former President, for persons who have made a conspicuous contribution to the humanitarian work and fundamental ideas of the Red Cross, was awarded to Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President of the ICRC and Director of the Henry Dunant Institute. The distinction, a bronze dove, was presented to Mr. Pictet by the Norwegian Red Cross President, Mr. Hans Hoegh, at a ceremony which took place last May in Oslo.

The ICRC is very much honoured by this distinction to one of its members.

DEATH OF Dr. ROLAND MARTI

Friends of the ICRC will be sad to learn that Dr. Roland Marti, former ICRC Chief Medical Officer, died in Geneva on 9 November.

Dr. Marti joined the ICRC in 1936 and devoted his whole career to helping suffering humanity. After the Spanish Civil War, during which he worked in extremely difficult conditions, he went to Germany, to head the ICRC delegation in Berlin. He was appointed head of the Medical Division in 1946 and later head of the Relief Division, and played an important role in all the major ICRC programmes of action after the Second World War, particularly in the Middle East and in Asia.

After an interval of 20 years during which he worked for UNICEF, he returned to the ICRC in 1970 and was appointed Medical Adviser and then Chief Medical Officer. This headquarters appointment did not prevent this kindly and modest man from continuing to be directly concerned with the victims of war, and until his retirement he never hesitated to undertake a mission as a field delegate. An untiring traveler, he was always ready, as long as his strength allowed, to visit and aid, on behalf of the ICRC, those whom he thought needed comfort or assistance.

The ICRC is immensely indebted to him for all his humanitarian work. It has expressed its condolences to Dr. Marti's family.

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Africa****ICRC appeal**

On 7 November, the International Committee of the Red Cross launched an appeal for 15 million Swiss francs. This sum is required for the six-month financing of the humanitarian project to meet the needs resulting from the various conflicts at present causing havoc in Africa.

The persistent worsening of the situation in countries directly or indirectly affected by military operations calls for a wider field of protection and of assistance to the hundreds of thousands of victims: these include displaced persons, refugees, wounded, sick, prisoners of war, and political detainees. Sixty-five delegates, assisted by about a hundred African collaborators, are to-day stationed in a dozen different countries.

The ICRC, the only operational humanitarian organization in some parts of the African continent, stresses the importance of this humanitarian mission and trusts that the States signatories to the Geneva Conventions will furnish the urgent support which this mission demands.

Southern Africa**Information campaign**

The information campaign started by the ICRC in southern Africa and mentioned on page 313 of this edition of the *International Review* is an important new phase in ICRC activities in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and the "front line" states.

The programme, which was drawn up in close collaboration with African communication specialists, involves a whole series of information and dissemination activities aimed at several sections of the public: schools, armies, military and political authorities, displaced people living

in camps, government information services, etc. Another important area in which action is being taken is the mass media, especially radio.

Various means of information are currently being produced, for example, cartoon strips, posters, calendars, weekly radio programmes, articles for the local press, etc. The use of vernacular African languages is the rule.

Some films produced in recent years by the ICRC and the League are shown regularly in the towns and in the country (mobile cinema). Television channels—in the countries where they exist—have also been approached successfully.

The theme chosen for this campaign is a very general one: “To protect human life”, while the slogan evokes solidarity: “Let’s help each other”.

A graphic design combining the sign of the red cross and the outline of the continent of Africa appears on all publications related to the campaign. Moreover, an original sound signal of five notes has been composed to enable listeners to identify Red Cross radio programmes.

Finally, a 15-second cartoon film, with the graphic design and the sound signal, has been produced as an introduction to the television programmes and the cinema film-shows.

Republic of South Africa

The ICRC now has a permanent delegation in South Africa. The following official bulletin was published on 13 November: “The Department of Foreign Affairs announces that an agreement has been entered into on 7 November 1978 between the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland, to provide for the establishment of a Permanent Mission of the ICRC in South Africa, with headquarters in Pretoria.”

The appointed Regional Delegate in Pretoria, Mr. Roger Santschy, assumed his position on 17 November.

* * *

From 18 to 30 September, the ICRC conducted a new series of prison visits in the Republic of South Africa. A team consisting of the Delegate General for Africa, two delegates and a medical delegate visited nine places of detention (Grahamstown, Kingwilliamstown, Modderbee, The Fort, Potchefstroom, Pretoria Local, Kroonstad, Pollsmoor and Robben Island). They saw 439 convicted security prisoners (including 5 women) and 44 persons (including 10 women) detained under the Internal Security Amendment Act.

Rhodesia/Zimbabwe

So as to provide shelter for the displaced persons who had fled from the combat zones and who were seeking refuge around the large urban centres, the ICRC had experimented in having ten houses built in an area near Salisbury. The results proved positive and a larger scale programme was launched in mid-November in the district of Seki, 23 kilometres from the capital, where 300 shelters are being built. The Rhodesian authorities are providing land, laying drinking water mains and drains and installing sanitary equipment. The building of the shelters is being financed by the ICRC, which has been assigned the task of drawing up the list of families in need of homes. A budget of approximately 354,000 Swiss francs covering 18 months has been allocated to this programme of assistance.

The ICRC has meanwhile continued its traditional work of assistance and protection, ICRC delegates having visited, from 13 to 16 November, 171 administrative detainees in the prisons of Wha Wha and Chikurubi. In October, thanks to the ICRC, 263 persons were able to visit members of their families held at Wha Wha.

Between 25 September and 25 November, 303 tons of foodstuffs, 2,279 blankets, 1,255 articles of clothing and 5.5 tons of soap, to a total value of 186,300 Swiss francs, were distributed to war victims, mainly children, living in the rural areas. A further 500 articles of clothing, 100 kg of foodstuffs, 50 kg of soap and 240 blankets were distributed to 340 displaced persons in a transit camp in Chiredzi, who were awaiting transfer to "protected villages". On 13 November, the ICRC, in conjunction with the Rhodesian Red Cross and the Anglican Church, also came to the aid of 200 children who had been deprived of shelter after the closing of a school in the Gwelo region. One hundred and eighty blankets and 150 kg of foodstuffs were distributed.

Three new medical clinics have been opened in the district of Inyanga. They have been equipped with appropriate medical supplies and inspected by ICRC medical teams. At the request of the population, a further clinic has been opened in a "protected village" in the district of Chiweshe, thus bringing the number of ICRC clinics in this region to nine. In Central Mashonaland, the network of ICRC clinics is now used for the twice-weekly distribution of milk to children of pre-school age.

Botswana

At the request of the government authorities and the National Red Cross Society, the ICRC has agreed to cover the treatment and rehabilita-

tion costs for two disabled soldiers, since the kind of medical care required is not available in Botswana.

Zambia

Following the Rhodesian air raids on refugee camps at the end of October and beginning of November, the ICRC distributed, as an initial emergency operation, nearly 12 tons of relief supplies (194 tents, 1,100 blankets, 1,500 kg of soap, several hundred articles of clothing, medicaments and other medical supplies) to a value of 98,160 Swiss francs.

The blankets were supplied by the Zambian Red Cross and the clothing was a gift of the Swedish Red Cross to the National Society of Zambia.

A further 15,000 blankets and 400 tents, to a value of 196,281 Swiss francs, were purchased in Botswana and transported to Zambia for distribution to the civilian victims of the hostilities.

In addition, the ICRC decided to replenish the Zambian Ministry of Health's medical stocks which were used in caring for the injured. This contribution is equivalent to 132,000 Swiss francs.

All in all, this emergency action, in less than a month, has involved expenditure of almost half a million francs. This unexpected additional burden on the ICRC Africa budget for the next six months shows how necessary it is for the ICRC to be able to count on rapid financial support from the States signatories to the Geneva Conventions and from National Societies.

* * *

A health and hygiene specialist, seconded to the ICRC by the WHO, has been sent to Lusaka to institute a programme of hygiene education in the reception centres for victims of the Rhodesia/Zimbabwe conflict.

East Africa

Ethiopia

The ICRC has decided to appoint five specialists for a minimum of six months to the rehabilitation centre for disabled soldiers in Debra Zebit. Medical supplies will also be given to this centre as part of a programme of assistance costing approximately 500,000 Swiss francs.

In November, aid was given in the form of 12 tons of foodstuffs and 10,425 blankets to the displaced populations in Goba, in the province of Bale, and to an orphanage in Addis Ababa. Medical supplies, 5.2 tons of foodstuffs, and 5,000 bars of soap, have also been sent to Makale, in the Tegre province.

West and Central Africa

Chad

In October, four new family reuniting operations were organized by the ICRC. A four-year-old girl, who was living with her prisoner father in Faya, and three young men were returned to N'Djamena.

In the field of aid, the ICRC chartered a DC-4 which, between 12 and 14 October, flew six times to Faya, transporting 36 tons of foodstuffs which were distributed to the prisoners and their families in the Tibesti camps.

Zaire

The President of the Zaire Red Cross, Mr. Bompese, asked the ICRC for help to visit the "irregulars" detained after the Shaba disturbance, to assist the dispensaries of the National Society in this province and to disseminate the principles of the Red Cross. In reply to these requests and in order to appraise the situation of the ex-refugees, the ICRC sent two delegates to Shaba. Beginning on 7 November, their aim was to determine to what extent the dispensaries of the Zaire Red Cross are still operating and able to help displaced persons.

Mauritania

Mr. Jean de Courten, regional delegate, and Dr. Wacker, medical delegate, while in Nouakchott from 9 to 17 November, had a series of meetings with government authorities and the leading members of the Mauritanian Red Crescent.

The delegates also visited 204 Polisario Front prisoners held by Mauritania, and were able to talk to them without witnesses. Relief supplies for these prisoners will be distributed by the Mauritanian Red Crescent.

The ICRC is looking into the possibility of supplying the equipment necessary for the creation of a rehabilitation centre for the war-disabled.

Latin America

Mission of the delegate general

From 14 September to 4 October, Mr. Sergio Nessi, ICRC delegate general for Latin America, carried out a mission in Uruguay, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, Chile and Argentina. In each of these countries he discussed problems relating to ICRC activities with government authorities and leading members of the National Societies.

On 24 September, Mr. Nessi, accompanied by Mr. Chevalley, ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean, attended an extraordinary meeting of the National Societies of Central America in Tegucigalpa, which was intended to co-ordinate relief action for Nicaraguan refugees in the adjacent countries.

The Southern Cone

The development of the situation in the south of Latin America has caused the ICRC to change its organization in this area. The delegates who were stationed in Chile have been moved to Argentina, and, as from October 1978, all activities in the southern Cone have been directed from the regional delegation in Buenos Aires.

Chile

From September 1973, when its Chilean delegation was opened, until October 1978, the ICRC made 1,123 prison visits to approximately 18,000 people detained as a result of the events. Most of these detainees were visited at regular intervals during this time. Material and medical assistance totalling 1,700,000 Swiss francs was given to them, and the cost of the assistance programmes for some 3,000 detainees' families was 4,400,000 Swiss francs.

The Chilean Ministers for Foreign Affairs, for the Interior and for Justice were informed of the decision of the ICRC to continue its work in Chile from Buenos Aires by Mr. Nessi when he was in Santiago from 26 to 28 September 1978. However, the ICRC will maintain a liaison office in Chile and will continue its humanitarian mission for people who are still detained and its search for missing persons. The Chilean authorities accepted these proposals and promised to do all they could to help the ICRC carry out its humanitarian work.

In October, 747 families of detainees and former detainees (264 in Santiago and 483 in the provinces) received food from the ICRC to a value of approximately 17,700 dollars. The Chilean Red Cross and the

Churches received foodstuffs and medicaments to a value of 22,500 dollars.

Argentina

Between 23 October and 3 November, ICRC delegates carried out a series of visits to 319 detainees in four places of detention.

In October, 880 detainees' families (202 in Buenos Aires and 678 in the provinces) received foodstuffs to a value of 14,000 dollars.

At the end of November, the grants received by the ICRC or promised amounted to approximately 1,100,000 Swiss francs, whereas the Argentina appeal launched last summer to cover a 12-month programme was for 2,400,000 Swiss francs. Various governments and some charitable organizations have declared an interest in the work of the ICRC in this country and wish to give financial support.

Central America and the Caribbean

Nicaragua

The ICRC continued its protection and assistance activities throughout October and November.

Having been allowed their first visit to 117 detainees in Managua, ICRC delegates extended their work throughout the whole country. They have seen over 300 persons arrested as a result of the events and held in 17 places of detention. They have also carried out several visits to some 340 persons sheltering in embassies and have brought them relief of various kinds. A medical delegate has also carried out regular visits to civilian and military hospitals in the capital.

The humanitarian work of the ICRC has also been extended to the neighbouring countries. Delegates visited Nicaraguan refugee camps and some civilian internees in Costa Rica and Honduras.

In conjunction with the Nicaraguan Red Cross, the ICRC organized several convoys to provincial towns affected by the fighting. Approximately 50 tons of foodstuffs, the equivalent of more than 15,000 family food rations, were distributed in Esteli, Diriamba, Leon, Chinandega, Ocotal, Carazo, etc. The relief given to victims of the events, families of detainees and displaced persons, is valued at approximately 122,200 dollars.

In the second half of November, the head of the ICRC Relief Division carried out a survey of the needs in Nicaragua. He met the leading members of the National Society and Church representatives, with a view to co-ordinating relief work. The ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies have agreed that, the situation allowing, they will share

the work, so as to rationalize relief operations. The ICRC remains in charge of protection and assistance work in Nicaragua and of protection work in Honduras and Costa Rica. The ICRC and the League will have joint responsibility for refugee assistance in these two countries.

The number of ICRC staff was increased at the end of November to five: one chief delegate, two delegates, one medical delegate and one relief delegate.

Mr. Marcel Naville, member of the Committee and former ICRC president, carried out a mission to Nicaragua at the end of October to review the humanitarian work of the Red Cross with government authorities and the leaders of the National Red Cross Society.

Europe

ICRC President in Yugoslavia and Bulgaria

ICRC President, Mr. Alexandre Hay, accompanied by Mr. R.-J. Wilhelm, Deputy Director of the Department of Principles and Law, and Mr. Philippe Grand d'Hauteville, Regional Delegate for Europe, were in Yugoslavia and Bulgaria from 16 to 21 October, at the invitation of the two National Societies.

In Belgrade, the ICRC delegation had useful meetings with the leading members of the National Red Cross, during which they talked about matters of common interest, in particular humanitarian law and peace.

Mr. Hay was also received by the Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Josip Vrhovec, and by the President of the Federal Executive Council, Mr. Vaselein Djuranovic.

In Sofia, President Hay, Mr. Wilhelm and Mr. Grand d'Hauteville attended the official ceremonies commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the Bulgarian Red Cross. Many delegations from National Red Cross Societies participated in these events which took place in the presence of the country's top authorities.

Romania

The ICRC was invited by the Romanian Red Cross to take part in its congress, which is held every four years. Mr. Laurent Marti, as special representative of the President, and Mr. Grand d'Hauteville were delegated by the ICRC and stayed in Bucarest from 28 November to 1 December.

Asia

Indonesia

A new series of visits to detainees began at the end of October. Three teams, each made up of an ICRC delegate, a medical delegate and an interpreter of Swiss nationality, visited between 23 October and 8 November, 20 places of detention on the Island of Buru, where there were 10,121 political detainees. Two of the three teams then continued their visits in southern Kalimantan, in Ambon, Ceram, Malang and Surabaya.

ICRC President, Mr. Alexandre Hay, and the Director of Operations, Mr. Jean-Pierre Hocké, were in Indonesia from 14 to 17 November, where they were received by the President of the Republic, General Suharto. They also had discussions with Mr. Malik, the Vice President, Mr. Panggabean, acting Foreign Affairs Minister, and Admiral Soedamo, Commander in Chief of the Kopkamtib. Leading members of the Indonesian Red Cross accompanied the ICRC representatives throughout their stay.

Malaysia

President Hay broke his journey to Indonesia for a brief stay in Kuala Lumpur, where he attended part of the First Asian Seminar of International Humanitarian Law organized by the ICRC and the Malaysian Red Crescent.

Laos

On 6 October, the ICRC closed its Vientiane office, since it had been decided to end the joint operation of the International Red Cross for Indochina (INDSEC), as announced in the July-August edition of *International Review*. Henceforward, Mr. François Zen Ruffinen, ICRC delegate in Hanoi, will maintain relations with the Lao Red Cross and authorities by periodical visits.

In 1978, relief valued at 112,000 Swiss francs was given to Laos by the ICRC (equipment for the hospitals and the blood bank, support for the activities of the National Society).

Papua New Guinea

At the invitation of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross, Mr. Roland Duc, ICRC Regional Delegate for South-East Asia, was in Port Moresby from 26 October to 3 November, where he met the Minister for the

Interior, representatives of the Ministries of Health, Education and Foreign Affairs, and the leading members of the National Society. This was the first visit of an ICRC delegate to this country since the founding of the National Society.

Thailand

From mid-September to the beginning of November, ICRC delegates continued their visits to detained illegal immigrants. They visited a total of 3,743 detainees in 29 police stations and 8 transit camps in the north-east, east and south-east. As usual, relief supplies were distributed.

Iran

On 2 November, Mr. Christian Michel, ICRC delegate in Teheran, visited 234 detainees in Evin prison. On 8 November, he saw about thirty detainees at the Comité Prison. A new series of visits, to be carried out by a team of four ICRC delegates, started at the beginning of December.

Middle East

Lebanon

The violent clashes and indiscriminate bombing at the beginning of October in and around Beirut, involving great losses among the civilian population, and calling for relief operations, caused the ICRC to launch two appeals for truces to permit the evacuation of the wounded.

It was only after the cease-fire of 7 October that humanitarian work could really begin: teams of ICRC delegates and voluntary ambulance workers of the Lebanese Red Cross evacuated dozens of wounded to hospitals in the capital and further inland. Moreover, the hospitals of east Beirut and the ICRC dispensary in the Achrafé district, were replenished with foodstuffs and medical supplies, which they had been without for several days, as the fighting had rendered them inaccessible.

The various operations were not without danger for the delegates and volunteers of the Red Cross, who found it very difficult to move around because of the destruction and the snipers. In fact, two voluntary workers of the National Society were hit by bullets on 16 October.

Confronted by the disturbing situation of some 50,000 families who had been forced from their homes by the fighting and who had taken

refuge in the mountains, the ICRC, on 17 October, appealed to the governments and to the National Societies for three million Swiss francs to cover the purchase of relief supplies and operational costs in the following months. At the end of November, 989,200 Swiss francs worth of relief supplies (powdered milk, baby food, blankets, clothing and medical supplies) were sent to Lebanon or bought there. In mid-December, a further 142.5 tons of goods, to a value of 950,355 Swiss francs, were despatched to Beirut.

The relief supplies are being distributed in collaboration with the official state services, the Lebanese Red Cross and international charitable organizations working in Lebanon. The ICRC is chiefly concerned with providing foodstuffs and medicaments to villages controlled by the Arab Peacekeeping Force and closed to other relief organizations. It is also helping some ethnic and religious minorities.

Emergency relief was thus given to some 300 Armenian families who had fled Beirut in search of shelter in Anjar, near the Syrian border, where the population is exclusively of Armenian origin. For practical reasons, the ICRC sent these relief supplies through its delegation in Damascus: on 10 October, M. David Delapraz, ICRC delegate in the Syrian Arab Republic, delivered 1,000 mattresses, 2,000 blankets (valued at 50,000 Swiss francs) and medical equipment to the village dispensary.

Reinforcements were sent to Lebanon, bringing the total number of ICRC personnel in west Beirut, east Beirut, Jounieh, Tripoli and Tyr to 21 (13 delegates, 3 doctors, 4 nurses, 1 Agency specialist), assisted by 44 Lebanese staff.

On 31 October, Mr. Michel Cagneux, head of the ICRC delegation, was received by the President of the Republic, Mr. Elias Sarkis, to whom he described the activities of the ICRC during the events of the month: the work of the emergency relief centre, the regular appraisal of the needs of the hospitals in east Beirut, the supply of medicaments to these hospitals, the opening of an office in Jounieh and the study of the humanitarian needs of the displaced population. Mr. Cagneux pointed out that the ICRC would henceforth concentrate its relief work on helping refugee children under five years old, the population near the "front lines", and the minority communities. President Sarkis expressed deep gratitude for all that the ICRC was doing.

On 5 October, the body of a Lebanese civilian, who had died at Haifa hospital in Israel, was returned to Lebanon, under the auspices of the ICRC.

Israel and Occupied Territories

In September, ICRC delegates carried out 178 visits to detainees held for questioning in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Gaza districts.

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Student travel operations under ICRC auspices, which began at the end of August, finished at the beginning of October. Ten such operations enabled some 5,000 students from Gaza and the Sinai to return to their studies in Cairo after the summer holidays. A number of visitors also took advantage of these facilities.

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Another student travel operation took place on 1 November, in Kuneitra: six students from Golan went to Syria to study.

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

FIRST HUNGARIAN TRANSLATION OF "A MEMORY OF SOLFERINO"

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, the Hungarian Red Cross has taken the welcome initiative of having extracts from Dunant's "A Memory of Solferino" translated and published as a 46-page illustrated booklet.

This is the first Hungarian translation of Dunant's book, based on the abridged edition published by the Swiss Red Cross in 1964. Dunant's text is followed by a short biography of the principal founder of the Red Cross.

We congratulate the Hungarian Red Cross on the nice way it has chosen to honour the memory of Henry Dunant.

THE PROTOCOLS IN KOREAN

The Seoul Institute of International Law, which was founded a few years ago by the Republic of Korea National Red Cross has just published a Korean translation of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. This 268-page publication, which contains the official English version of the Protocols together with the Korean text, was issued in March 1978 and distributed by the National Society to ministries, universities and specialists in international law. It will undoubtedly be useful for those who are not too familiar with any of the European languages.

Our congratulations go to the Republic of Korea National Red Cross for this very worthwhile contribution towards the spread of international humanitarian law.

The Protocols in Arabic

The edition in Arabic of the Protocols Additional has now been issued in print by the ICRC. This 136-page volume contains the text of the Protocols in the Arabic translation prepared by the Diplomatic Conference.

Like all the ICRC's Arabic publications, it is on sale at the ICRC, Geneva.

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EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

ADOPTED 21 JUNE 1973

ART. 1. — *International Committee of the Red Cross*

1. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

2. It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.¹

ART. 2. — *Legal Status*

As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — *Headquarters and Emblem*

The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be *Inter arma caritas*.

ART. 4. — *Role*

1. The special role of the ICRC shall be:

- (a) to maintain the fundamental principles of the Red Cross as proclaimed by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition;
- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties;
- (e) to ensure the operation of the Central Information Agencies provided for in the Geneva Conventions;
- (f) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities;
- (g) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension;
- (h) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

2. The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its role as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any question requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — *Membership of the ICRC*

The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. It shall comprise fifteen to twenty-five members.

¹ The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term "National Red Cross Societies" includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

ADDRESSES OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

- AFGHANISTAN (Democratic Republic) — Afghan Red Crescent, Puli Artan, *Kabul*.
- PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga e Barrikadave, *Tirana*.
- ALGERIA (Democratic and People's Republic) — Algerian Red Crescent Society, 15 bis, Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINA — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, 1089 *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 206, Clarendon Street, *East Melbourne 3002*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, Postfach 39, *Vienna 4*.
- BAHAMAS — Bahamas Red Cross Society, P.O. Box N 91, *Nassau*.
- BAHRAIN — Bahrain Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 882, *Manama*.
- BANGLADESH — Bangladesh Red Cross Society, 34, Bangabandhu Avenue, *Dacca 2*.
- PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN — Red Cross of Benin, B.P. 1, *Porto Novo*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98 Chaussée de Vleurgat, 1050 *Brussels*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simón Bolívar, 1515, *La Paz*.
- BOTSWANA — Botswana Red Cross Society, Independence Avenue, P.O. Box 485, *Gaborone*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. Biruzov, *Sofia 27*.
- BURMA (Socialist Republic of the Union of) — Burma Red Cross, 42 Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 324, *Bujumbura*.
- CAMEROON — Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street East, *Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 1H6*.
- CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE — Central African Red Cross, B.P. 1428, *Bangui*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa María 0150, Correo 21, Casilla 246V., *Santiago*.
- CHINA (People's Republic) — Red Cross Society of China, 22 Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65, Apartado nacional 1110, *Bogotá D.E.*
- CONGO, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF THE — Croix-Rouge Congolaise, place de la Paix, *Brazzaville*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 14, Avenida 8, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Calle 23 201 esq. N. Vedado, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, 118 04 *Prague 1*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Ny Vestergade 17, DK-1741 *Copenhagen K*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Apartado Postal 1293, *Santo Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorian Red Cross, Calle de la Cruz Roja y Avenida Colombia, 118, *Quito*.
- EGYPT (Arab Republic of) — Egyptian Red Crescent Society, 29, El-Galaa Street, *Cairo*.
- EL SALVADOR — El Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente, *San Salvador, C.A.*
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Ras Desta Damtew Avenue, *Addis Ababa*.
- FIJI — Fiji Red Cross Society, 193 Rodwell Road, P.O. Box 569, *Suva*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, Box 168, 00141 *Helsinki 14/15*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17 rue Quentin Bauchart, F-75384 *Paris CEDEX 08*.
- GAMBIA — The Gambia Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 472, *Banjul*.
- GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaizerstrasse 2, DDR 801 *Dresden 1*.
- GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300, *Bonn 1*, Postfach (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, National Headquarters, Ministries Annex A3, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3a Calle 8-40, Zona 1, *Ciudad de Guatemala*.
- GUYANA — Guyana Red Cross, P.O. Box 351, Eve Leary, *Georgetown*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, Place des Nations Unies, B.P. 1337, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, 7a Calle, 1a y 2a Avenidas, *Comayagüela, D.M.*
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, V. Arany János utca 31, *Budapest V*. Mail Add.: 1367 *Budapest 5*, Pf. 249.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Nóatúni 21, *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 110001*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Jalan Abdul Muis 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Av. Villa, Carrefour Takhté Djamchid, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 16 Merrion Square, *Dublin 2*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12 via Toscana, *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST — Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
- JAMAICA — Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 1-3 Shiba-Daimon 1-chome, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo 105*.
- JORDAN — Jordan National Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 10 001, *Amman*.
- KENYA — Kenya Red Cross Society, St. John's Gate, P.O. Box 40712, *Nairobi*.
- KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyeongyang*.
- KOREA, REPUBLIC OF — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.
- KUWAIT — Kuwait Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 1350, *Kuwait*.
- LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC — Lao Red Cross, P.B. 650, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Spears, *Beirut*.
- LESOTHO — Lesotho Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 366, *Maseru*.

- LIBERIA** — Liberian National Red Cross, National Headquarters, 107 Lynch Street, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA** — Libyan Arab Red Crescent, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN** — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBOURG** — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, C.P. 404, *Luxembourg*.
- MALAGASY REPUBLIC** — Red Cross Society of the Malagasy Republic, rue Patrice Lumumba, *Antananarivo*.
- MALAWI** — Malawi Red Cross, Hall Road, *Blantyre* (P.O. Box 30080, Chichiri, *Blantyre* 3).
- MALAYSIA** — Malaysian Red Crescent Society, 519 Jalan Belfield, *Kuala Lumpur* 08-03.
- MALI** — Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, *Bamako*.
- MAURITANIA** — Mauritanian Red Crescent Society, B.P. 344, Avenue Gamal Abdel Nasser, *Nouakchott*.
- MAURITIUS** — Mauritius Red Cross, Ste Thérèse Street, *Curepipe*.
- MEXICO** — Mexican Red Cross, Avenida Ejército Nacional n° 1032, *México* 10 D.F.
- MONACO** — Red Cross of Monaco, 27 boul. de Suisse, *Monte Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA** — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan Bator*.
- MOROCCO** — Moroccan Red Crescent, B.P. 189, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL** — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tahachal, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- NETHERLANDS** — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND** — New Zealand Red Cross, Red Cross House, 14 Hill Street, *Wellington* 1. (P.O. Box 12-140, *Wellington North*.)
- NICARAGUA** — Nicaragua Red Cross, D.N. Apartado 3279, *Managua*.
- NIGER** — Red Cross Society of Niger, B.P. 386, *Niamey*.
- NIGERIA** — Nigerian Red Cross Society, Eko Aketa Close, off St. Gregory Rd., P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY** — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*. Mail Add.: *Postboks 7034 H-Oslo* 3.
- PAKISTAN** — Pakistan Red Crescent Society, National Headquarters, 169, Sarwar Road, *Rawalpindi*.
- PAPUA NEW GUINEA** — Red Cross of Papua New Guinea, P.O. Box 6545, *Boroko*.
- PANAMA** — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado Postal 668, Zona 1, *Panamá*.
- PARAGUAY** — Paraguayan Red Cross, Brasil 216, *Asunción*.
- PERU** — Peruvian Red Cross, Jirón Chancay 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES** — Philippine National Red Cross, 860 United Nations Avenue, P.O.B. 280, *Manila* 2801.
- POLAND** — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL** — Portuguese Red Cross, Jardim 9 Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon* 3.
- ROMANIA** — Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, *Bucarest*.
- SAN MARINO** — San Marino Red Cross, Palais gouvernemental, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA** — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL** — Senegalese Red Cross Society, Bd Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE** — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6A Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SINGAPORE** — Singapore Red Cross Society, 15 Penang Lane, *Singapore* 9.
- SOMALIA (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)** — Somali Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 937, *Mogadishu*.
- SOUTH AFRICA** — South African Red Cross, Cor. Kruijs & Market Streets, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg* 2001.
- SPAIN** — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid* 10.
- SRI LANKA (Dem. Soc. Rep. of)** — Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, 106 Dharmapala Mawatha, *Colombo* 7.
- SUDAN** — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWEDEN** — Swedish Red Cross, Fack, S-104 40 *Stockholm* 14.
- SWITZERLAND** — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, B.P. 2699, 3001 *Berne*.
- SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC** — Syrian Red Crescent, Bd Mahdi Ben Barake, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA** — Tanzania Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND** — Thai Red Cross Society, Paribatra Building, Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO** — Togolese Red Cross Society, 51 rue Boko Soga, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, Wrightson Road West, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain*, Trinidad, West Indies.
- TUNISIA** — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19 rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY** — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UGANDA** — Uganda Red Cross, Nabunya Road, P.O. Box 494, *Kampala*.
- UNITED KINGDOM** — British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, SW1X 7EJ*.
- UPPER VOLTA** — Upper Volta Red Cross, P.O.B. 340, *Ouagadougou*.
- URUGUAY** — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A.** — American National Red Cross, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington, D.C.* 20006.
- U.S.S.R.** — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, I. Tcheremushkinskii proezd 5, *Moscow* 117036.
- VENEZUELA** — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF** — Red Cross of Viet Nam, 68 rue Bà-Triệu, *Hanoi*.
- YUGOSLAVIA** — Red Cross of Yugoslavia, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.
- REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE** — Red Cross of the Republic of Zaire, 41 av. de la Justice, B.P. 1712, *Kinshasa*.
- ZAMBIA** — Zambia Red Cross, P.O. Box R.W.1, 2837 Brentwood Drive, *Lusaka*.